

CAIGE Meeting Notes

02/26/03

Attending: Michael Monroe, Jack Porter, Lori Johnson, LeAnn Herren, Jeff McCormack, Tricia Tangney.

- 100 of 4000 SC school busses are fueled by gas, the rest are diesel.
- Jeff is going to look into the cost of bio-diesel.
- DHEC staff will research more into the 'adopt-a-school bus' program and share with group. (A company will pay to retrofit a school bus. It is good publicity for them and may be a write-off.)

- Ex Order – Mike Rowe has indicated that an environmental contact for the Governor's Office has not been identified as of yet. The drafted concurrent resolution has been revised. Michael will get this revised resolution out to members. We need to consider several options beyond the resolution and the executive order for encouraging state government to pursue for reducing emissions.
- The Energy Office is supportive of what we are doing and the language contained in the executive order.
- LeAnn sent a copy of the draft executive order to the Environmental Action Committee at USC – they love the Ex Order but said 'good luck'.
- Tricia is going to check with a staff person in the Governor's Office to try and determine what the process will be for requesting executive orders.
- Jeff stated that we should ask for as much as we want in the document – it probably will be cut back.
- We must be careful that the Ex Order is not perceived as an unfunded mandate during the current fiscal situation.
- Both draft documents may offer a chance to educate legislatures and get our foot in the door.
- Jeff mentioned that even without the Ex Order/Joint Resolution, we can still do this on a voluntary basis...it can still work.

- We may need to figure a way to gather data (establish a baseline) from other agencies to determine what programs/projects they are already doing that benefits air quality (e.g., DHHS – telecommuting, etc.). This could be done through a survey (Results could be tabulated into a Clean Air Report Card – how does your agency contribute to cleaner air?)
- Tricia mentioned a person at their office that does presentations on a project called the other 5%, it conveys information regarding simple things people can do to conserve energy... it is a way for the Energy Office to promote other programs. (Possible topic a future "Air it Out" program).
 - Loan Program for purchasing more energy efficient equipment- Tricia stated that she can provide us with more information about this program. Perhaps the CAIGE may help promote it.
 - Million Solar Roofs

- Rebuild SC
 - Etc.
- The Energy Office also has quantified all their savings.
- We need to find the right people at these agencies (make a list).
- Maybe send out a possible newsletter.
- Start with big agencies (i.e., large numbers of staff) first.
- LeAnn mentioned the Dept. of Corrections in GA. They have been taking a big lead in protecting the environment. She is going to look into finding a contact so that we may learn more about their initiatives.
- During this time people will do anything to save money.
- Jeff is going to try to get in touch with Dennis Haigler – he was working on building maintenance guidelines. We are interested in these.
- We could make a list to give to other agencies that says that DHEC would like you to consider...purchasing electric equipment, etc.
- Check with Sustainable Universities Program to find out contact in colleges/universities in SC to get them involved and find out what they already do.
- There is a “fuel-buying network”. This is a mechanism for purchasing fuel in quantities to help reduce costs. It is voluntary for agencies. USC is not a part of this network.
- **A future meeting was not scheduled at this time. DHEC members of the workgroup will plan to research information and distribute to the group. At that time, a future meeting will be scheduled.**